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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

C-2315/AH-2

W 7 MAY 1975

LTG Vernon A. Walters, USA
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Dick:

(U) Danny Graham asked me to keep you apprised of the status of the proposal to invite Lt Gen Carlos Fernandez Vallespin, Chief of the Spanish High General Staff, to the U.S..

(C) Discussion with State's Iberian Affairs desk indicates that the time is not propitious for a visit, in view of the delicate nature of current base negotiations. Any appearance of implication that we are trying to "buy" the Spaniards must obviously be avoided. Additionally, no "new initiatives" is State's guideline in regard to U.S.-Spanish bilateral relations for the duration of negotiations which are apt to run on to September. It appears that this visit falls in the "new initiatives" category.

(C) As a related matter, Jim Dixon, our DATT/ARMA Madrid, proposed to DA last December a special group tour for FY76 for Lt Generals Coloma Gallegos (Army Minister), Fernandez Vallespin (CHGS) and Villaescusa Quilis (Army C/S), with wives, aides, and an escort officer. Of the three, only General Villaescusa has not visited the States previously; the DATT gives him first priority as an invitee if the group tour cannot be accommodated, seeing him an excellent candidate as future Army Minister.

(U) Army Foreign Liaison (Tours Section) on the other hand views Jim Dixon's special group visit proposal with marked lack of enthusiasm, since their policy is to limit a VIP visit invitation to one principal invitee, wife, and two staff officers of the invitee's choice.

(C) DATT Madrid has also noted the following regarding General Vallespin:

"Feel USG should be extremely careful to avoid appearing equate Chief, High General Staff, Spain to Chief, JCS, USA. Vallespin's position in military hierarchy is below that of Service Chiefs of Staff. Chief HGS does control Spanish International Military Intelligence and does serve as coordinator for multi-Service problems, but has no

State, DIA reviews completed

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SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
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authority to direct any Service to do anything. Inflation of importance of Chief, HGS, in foreign eyes was one of factors used by Lt Gen Diez Alegria's opponents to cause his removal. Believe U.S. should move extremely cautiously not to give Vallespin appearance of a more important position holder than he really is."

(C) Assuming that Army will not sponsor the special group tour he recommended, Dixon believes that any "Vallespin visit should be pointed toward international intelligence systems and orientation, U.S. strategic planning and systems used by DoD to accomplish strategic studies, to include research contracts with civilian study centers."

(C) Given the foregoing, we have placed the Vallespin matter on the back burner for now, to avoid any "new initiatives" pending resolution of basing negotiations, a topic which can conceivably cast a pall over U.S.-Spanish relations for some time, or at least until improvement in the atmosphere in Madrid. We have kept Jim Dixon informed, of course, to be fully aware of the perspective from this end, and solicited his continuing comments and recommendations in this proposal. Incidentally, he'll be staying for a fifth year in Spain, at request of Ambassador Stabler, which we believe is a wise move for all concerned. We all appreciate your interest

(U) I hope this sits well with you - we'll be in touch later on, hoping for a more favorable outcome.

Sincerely,



W. D. CRITTENBERGER, JR.
Major General, U. S. Army
Deputy Director for Attaches
and Human Resources

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